

REMARKS

In the Office Communication dated December 28, 2007, the Examiner indicated that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and suggested that the application would be in condition for allowance, if the independent claims (e.g., claims 1, 10, 19, and 23) were amended to include similar features initially presented in claim 9.

By way of this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1, 10, 19, and 23 to improve form and cancels claims 9, 11, 18, and 21 without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-8, 10, 12, 15-17, 19, and 22-24 are now pending in the present application.

While not concurring in any previous rejection, but to expedite prosecution, independent claims 1 has been amended to incorporate features formerly recited claim 9, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Independent claims 10, 19, and 23 have been amended to recite features similar to those recited in original claim 9.

In view of the Examiner's remarks and the preceding Amendments, timely reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-8, 10, 12, 15-17, 19, and 22-24 are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

As Applicant's remarks with respect to the Examiner's rejections are sufficient to overcome these rejections, Applicant's silence as to assertions by the Examiner in the Office Action or certain requirements that may be applicable to such rejections (e.g., whether a reference constitutes prior art, motivation to combine references, assertions as to dependent claims, etc.) is not a concession by Applicant that such assertions are

accurate or such requirements have been met, and Applicant reserves the right to analyze and dispute such assertions/requirements in the future.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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